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Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP)

Salmonella pullorum (S. pullorum) and Salmonella typhoid (S. typhoid) test Requirement for Show/Exhibition poultry

What regulations are there for testing show / exhibition birds for *Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella typhoid* in North Dakota?

- All poultry **regardless of age** going to shows and/or public exhibit, *excluding doves and pigeons* must have a safe leg or wing band, **and**:
 - Come from an NPIP certified *Salmonella pullorum*- *Salmonella typhoid* clean flock.
- OR**
 - Have had a negative *Salmonella pullorum*- *Salmonella typhoid* test within 90 days prior to going to a show/exhibition

What is the NPIP?

- NPIP is a commonly used acronym for the National Poultry Improvement Plan. The [National Poultry Improvement Plan \(NPIP\)](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/) is a national program in collaboration with state and federal departments of agriculture and industry representatives. The main goal of the NPIP program is to use diagnostic technology to effectively improve poultry and poultry products throughout the United States. NPIP provides certification that poultry and poultry products destined for interstate and international shipments are disease free.
- For more information:
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/

What is *Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella typhoid*?

- *Salmonella pullorum* (or otherwise more simply referred to as 'pullorum') and *Salmonella typhoid* are bacterial diseases which can produce significant mortalities, especially in young chicken, turkey and game bird flocks. Transmission occurs primarily through the egg, but also occurs via direct or indirect contact with infected birds.
 - *S. pullorum* and *S. typhoid* are both covered by doing just only 1 test.

What kind of birds required to test negative for Salmonella Pullorum before they can be shown and / or otherwise exhibited?

- *ALL* birds, except pigeons or doves, are required to show proof of testing negative for *S. pullorum* and *S. typhoid*.

How do you know if the birds you purchase for showing have been tested for Salmonella pullorum?

- Birds that come from an NPIP certified flock have already been tested for *S. Pullorum* and *S. typhoid*. Therefore, **all that is usually needed when showing or exhibiting an NPIP certified bird, is a Poultry Exhibition Statement of Origin (SFN60329) form to be filled out at the time of purchase.** Most owners or distributors (feed stores, hatcheries, etc.) of NPIP certified poultry are aware of these forms and should have the forms on hand in their stores (you may have to ask for the form though). However, blank forms are also available on our website: <http://www.nd.gov/ndda/program/national-poultry-improvement-plan> and can be printed for your use. As a buyer, you can print and bring the form to the NPIP certified poultry seller or distributor that are selling chicks. The buyer can request that it be filled out at the time of purchase. If they are selling NPIP certified birds they will have the contact information for the hatchery of origin as well as an NPIP number that is unique to each NPIP certified flock. This information is required to be documented on the form. This form should accompany the corresponding bird at each show/exhibit. Also, a safe (leg or wing) band should be placed on all birds intended for show/ exhibition. The color, type and location of each bird's band should also be noted on the corresponding Poultry Exhibition Statement of Origin form or on attached sheets.
- When purchasing directly from a NPIP hatchery you may need to request a VS 9-3 form. The VS 9-3 form can be attached to the Poultry Exhibition State of Origin form.
 - Please check North Dakota's Import Requirements for birds coming from out-of-state: <http://www.nd.gov/ndda/program/animal-importation-requirements>

Can birds from a non-NPIP certified flock still be shown / exhibited in ND?

- **Yes!** In fact, some poultry owners choose to breed and hatch their own birds for showing or they may wish to buy certain birds that do not come from a NPIP certified flock. **However, these birds are required to show proof of testing negative for Salmonella pullorum.** The owners of these birds will need to contact a certified testing agent and make arrangements to have their birds tested. A VS 9-2 form will be provided by the testing agent for those birds that test negative. The test is valid for 90 days and must accompany the bird at each show/exhibit. A safe (leg or wing) band should be placed on all birds intended for show or exhibit after they've been tested. The color, type and location of each bird's band should also be noted on the corresponding VS 9-2 paperwork.

How do I locate a Certified Testing Agent to test my birds?

- You may find a certified testing agent in your area by contacting your local 4-H leaders, NDSU county extension agent and/or veterinary clinics. Some veterinary clinics may have a *Salmonella pullorum* testing agent available to do the less expensive rapid test.
- You may also refer to our North Dakota certified testing agents contact list: <http://www.nd.gov/ndda/program/national-poultry-improvement-plan>
 - *(Testing Agents are not obliged to be available at any time to test other owner's birds, so we suggest you please make arrangements ahead of time to have your birds tested.)*

How much does it cost to have a testing agent test my birds?

- Certified testing agents work independently; they are free to set their own fee scale and those fees may vary from one agent to another. Most testers ask for a small, cost effective charge to cover the cost of testing supplies, labor and fuel.

Will the test hurt my bird?

- The risk of harm to your bird from being tested is generally low. The test requires only a drop of blood which is typically taken from the inside of a wing. Because feather removal and/or disruption, mild bleeding and bruising are all possible, it is recommended that you have your bird(s) tested at least a few days prior to the show / exhibit. If testing your bird the day of a fair or exhibit is your only option, please be aware that the testing may temporarily affect the appearance of your bird.

Do I need to keep my tested show birds separate from my non-tested birds?

- Yes. Birds that have been tested are still at risk to disease exposure by comingling with non-tested birds. Proper bio-security should be practiced by housing the tested show birds in a separate enclosure and/or flight pen. Show/exhibition birds, that have been tested, should be kept from sharing the same space, feed and water containers with birds that have not been tested.

BANDS: Do I need to buy special or specific id bands for my birds?

- No. Any **safe** leg or wing band will work fine. The choice of band is left up to the bird owner. In some cases, the testing agent might provide bands and may charge an additional fee for them. However, the choice of band is ultimately left up to the bird owner. The band should be safely attached to the bird in such a way that it does not cause any harm to the animal. The band type, color, location (*and/or id numbers on the band*) must be noted on each bird's paperwork. Some 4-H leaders and counties are adopting a numbering system to add to each band. In these cases a wide band that can be written on with permanent marker are used.
 - One suggested numbering system starts with ND, adds the county number followed by the flock owners numbers of choice. For example, the first four characters might read "ND08 (then adding the individual flock owners numbering system whatever that may be)." The system could be quite effective and poultry

owners are welcome to use it if they wish. **However, a numbering system or specific id band is not required by the ND State Board of Animal Health at this time as any safe band will do.** ***Please remember, if a numbering system is used, that number should be noted on the birds paperwork.*

Can the rapid plate test be used to test for Pullorum in all poultry?

The rapid plate test can be used in all poultry except for turkeys due to results not being as accurate. Turkeys tested by a testing agent with a 9-2 form is NOT permitted and will not be allowed at the exhibition. Instead a blood test that is sent into an approved NPIP laboratory is required. Turkeys purchased from local feed stores more than likely originated from an NPIP flock. Those chicks from NPIP flocks including turkeys have already been Pullorum tested at the hatchery so all that is needed in such cases is a statement of origin form from the feed store that includes the hatchery's NPIP number.

How do I become a certified testing agent?

- Each states requirement and process to become a certified testing agent may vary. North Dakota has held a testing agent course recently. However, additional courses have not been scheduled at this time. You can contact the ND State Board of Animal Health to inquire if and when another course might be offered. Phone number is 701-328-2655.
- Another possibility is attending the testing agent course held annually in Minnesota. North Dakota does recognize Minnesota testing agent certification. However, once training has been completed, our office may require observation during the testing season. Please contact our office, at 701-328-2655 for more information.
- For more information contact Minnesota Board of Animal Health at 320-231-5170 or visit their website: <http://mn.gov/bah/animals/poultry/index.html>
 - 2014 Authorized Poultry Testing Agent (APTA) Course Information
This years' APTA training course will be held on Friday, March 28 at the [Arrowwood Lodge at Brainerd Lakes](#) in Baxter, Minnesota. Training will take place from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. A registration fee of \$25 must be paid in advance of the training to confirm registration. The fee includes training, all course materials, breakfast and lunch. APTAs must be at least 18 years of age. To find an APTA in your area or to sign-up for the course, please complete and return a [course registration form](#) by March 8, 2014. For questions about the training, please contact the MPTL via phone at 320-231-5170 or [send an email](#).

Do I need any special education or background in science to become a certified testing agent?

- No. The course is geared to provide all the information necessary to become a successful testing agent. Many people that have taken the course comment on its informative and user-friendly process.

If I become a testing agent can I test my own birds?

- Yes, in fact many poultry owners of NPIP certified flocks do indeed become testing agents, so they can test their own flocks.

How can I become an NPIP certified flock owner?

- Becoming an NPIP certified flock owner is relatively easy and can be broken down into three steps:
 1. Complete and submit an NPIP application: <http://www.nd.gov/ndda/program/national-poultry-improvement-plan>
 2. Have a testing agent test your flock for *Salmonella pullorum* and submit those test results / VS 9-2 forms to the ND State Board of Animal Health; **and**
 3. An inspection of your poultry will be scheduled.
- When those three steps have been successfully completed a unique NPIP number will be issued to you. After the initial flock testing, you will only need to test 10% of your flock annually as well as have an annual inspection completed to maintain your NPIP certified status.

What benefits can I expect as an NPIP flock owner?

- Many! First and foremost, you'll have peace of mind of being part of a network that owns a disease monitored flock as well as additional ease when buying or selling NPIP certified birds. As an NPIP certified producer you will have added ease in importation and exportation of your birds. And if you're an NPIP certified flock owner that is showing / exhibiting your poultry it will be a much simpler process since your birds are already tested.

If I'm not an NPIP certified flock owner, how long are my individual bird's *S. pullorum* tests valid?

- Birds purchased from an NPIP certified flock will come with a Poultry Exhibition Statement of Origin form. You may need to request the form at the time of purchase from the seller. The form serves as proof of testing and it is valid for one year.
- For Non-NPIP certified birds a testing agent will provide a VS 9-2 form after the bird tests negative. The form is valid for 90 days.

I've heard that my birds also have to be tested for Avian Influenza to show?

- No. At this time, Avian Influenza testing, is not part of the testing requirement for show / exhibition birds. Avian Influenza testing is offered free of charge in North Dakota while funds are available. Many NPIP certified flocks as well as non-NPIP certified backyard and / or hobby flocks do choose to take advantage of the opportunity for their flocks to be tested for Avian Influenza. For NPIP certified flock owners, this will add additional Avian Influenza disease clean status for their flocks. If you would like to have your birds tested for Avian Influenza and/or would like more information about it contact Jeanne L. David, Avian Influenza Coordinator at email: jldavid@nd.gov or call 701-220-0151.